GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005
STRIKE BY BSNL EMPLOYEES
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited employees in Assam Circle, went on a strike on September 29, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the same?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited Employees of Assam Circle went on strike on 29th September, 2005.

(b) The details of their demands as indicated in the strike notice addressed to Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited are as under:-

(i) No Disinvestment/privatization of profitable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited.

(ii) No FDI hike from 49% to 74% in telecom.

(iii) No withdrawal of ADC.

(iv) No unbundling of local loops.

(v) No outsourcing, contractisation.

(vi) Ensure right to strike.

(vii) Implement Land Reforms & Public Distribution.

(viii) Enact Legislation for Unorganized and Agricultural sector.

(ix) Regularise casual labour

(x) Recover tax arrears, NPA

(xi) Increase GPF interest rate

(xii) Ensure employment to unemployed

(xiii) No downsizing of work force

(xiv) Allow appointments on compassionate grounds

(xv) Remove ceiling on payment of bonus

(xvi) Lift ban on recruitment

(c) Regarding the first demand, the Government has not given any assurance. Demand No. (ii) is not agreed to. The Government has already hiked FDI from 49% to 74% in telecom. As regards to demand No. (ix), the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is strictly following the instructions issued by Department of Telecommunications. As regards to demand No. (xiii), there is no such move to downsize the work force in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. Regarding demand No. (xiv), the appointments on compassionate grounds are being

made in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in accordance with the instructions issued by Department of Personnel & Training from time to time. Regarding demand No. (xv), it may be stated that under the Bonus Act, none of the employee is eligible for payment of Bonus. However, the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited employees are being paid Productivity Linked Incentive in terms of guidelines issued by Department of Public Enterprises. As regards to demand No. (xvi), recruitment is being made in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited keeping in mind the fast technological changes and requirements of the Organization. As regards to remaining demands, the Government has not given any commitment.